



The Weekly Page

VOLUME 3 ISSUE 2

JANUARY 19, 2007

Pages Learn About Legislature

Big ideas in government studied

Throughout the week pages grappled with understanding the three “big ideas” for a representative government: governing is a complex process, successful democracies rely on responsible citizens, and government affects our life every day. As they participated in daily discussions, readings and simulated committee hearing activities, their understandings around the concepts deepened.



New state colors introduced

Representatives Kyle Dyer, Sal Rosario, and IanLoveless introduced House bill 1000, which addresses the issue of the state colors of Washington. “The bill is a good one because Washington should have a state color like several of the other states,” said Representative Dyer. Official colors can promote state spirit. These colors of electric green and aqua will represent our state because of our foliage and bodies of water. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on January 18, 2007.

House bill stops water pollution

Representatives Khloe Frank and Denae Sallis introduced House bill 3721, which addresses the issue of water pollution. “The bill is a good one because it keeps our environment healthy and clean and it saves our aquatic wildlife animals from becoming extinct,” said Representative Sallis. “We need to keep our environment clean and stop all of the oil spills that are

occurring in the Northwest. We also need to keep all of our aquatic wildlife animals safe so they will not become extinct. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on January 18, 2007.

Abortion banned

Olympia, WA - Senators Beth Ross, Lauren Wiley, Alison Brooks and Aminuh Samal introduced Senate bill 6135, which addresses the issue of banning abortion. “This is a good bill because the death rate of unborn children is one child every 24 seconds, worldwide. Sadly, even in America, helpless, innocent children are being aborted, as if they were not even valued. This must stop. We are not the land of the free if we are murdering our future happiness and citizens,” said Sen. Wiley. The bill was introduced to ban abortion statewide. “The children saved from this horrid practice could be our future leaders,” said Sen. Wiley. According to the new law, they will be put up for adoption all over Washington state. This bill was heard before the Standing Legislative Page School Committee.

Socratic Seminar investigates the question “Are laws necessary?”

On Monday pages engaged in a Socratic-style discussion, in which they shared stimulating insights and questions around the topic of necessary legislation for a representative democracy. Students created criteria for judging the value of a law.



Crack down on bad dogs begins

Olympia, WA - Senator Cody Seeger (D-31) introduced Senate bill 6701, which addresses the issue of dangerous dog breeds. "This is a good bill because it will help control breeds of dogs such as pit bulls and rottweilers," said Sen. Seeger. The bill forbids the ownership of these well-known dangerous breeds. Local law enforcement and animal shelter offices will make rules to implement this bill. This bill was heard before the Standing Legislative Page School Committee.

Dam to be destroyed

Olympia, WA — Today, Senator Keenan Waeschle introduced Senate bill 5555, which addresses the issue of the demolition of La Grande Dam. "The bill is a good one because when the dam is destroyed, the restored waterway will provide money from recreational activities and will restore fish habitat," said Sen. Waeschle. Bill 5555 proposes the removal of La Grande Dam on the Nisqually River. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on January 18, 2007.

Pets saved

Today, Representative Felicia Straley introduced House bill 2953, which addresses the issue of banning the euthanasia of pets at humane societies. "The bill is a good one because it saves the lives of pets," said Representative Straley. Pets who stay longer than 3 weeks at the humane society without being adopted will be transferred to state shelters. These shelters will be funded by the government and the public. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on January 18, 2007.



Abortion banned

Representatives Shelby Saunders and Abigail Strick introduced House bill 3330, which addresses the issue of under-aged abortions. "The bill is a good one because too many girls age 15-19 are getting too many abortions in the United States," said Rep. Strick. Under the new law, no one under the age of 18 can have an abortion. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on January 18, 2007.

Pages write and lobby own bills

Pages worked individually or in small groups to write bills designed to address issues which were relevant to them. Topics for bills included banning euthanasia for pets, establishing a state color, and changes in the WASL test for graduation. They reflected real issues that affect teenage lives in Washington State. Bills were later presented for consideration in the mock committee hearings toward the end of the week. Pages practiced lobbying techniques as they encouraged their colleagues to support their bills in the hearings. They created media releases to help in influencing their peers to vote for their legislation.



Ski safety bill introduced

Today, Representatives Ryan Gutierrez and Tommy Thompson introduced House bill 1354, which addresses the issue of ski safety. "The bill is a good one because the number of skiing accidents is too high," said Representative Thompson. In order to prevent ski accidents, skiers are required to wear a safety helmet while skiing on any mountain resort. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on January 18, 2007.

Reducing air pollutants

Today, Representative Naish Harlan introduced House bill 1777, which addresses the issue of air pollutants. "The bill is a good one because air pollutants are causing hazards to the environment and to humans and they need to be reduced," said Rep. Harlan. This bill will reduce air pollutants released by power plants using fossil fuels. The bill will require these plants to reduce their emissions to 50 cubic feet annually by 2010. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on January 18, 2007.

Established state drink

Today, Senators Melissa Forster and Alexander Cobb introduced Senate bill 6945, which addresses the issue of an official state drink. "The bill is a good one because the apple is the offi-

cial state fruit,” said Senators Forster And Cobb. The state drink will be apple juice and it is a way for Washington residents to show their home pride not only with a fruit but also with a drink. It also can be man made which can make it very affordable. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on January 18, 2006.

Guest speakers visit Page School

Senator Craig Pridemore (D-49th District); Senate Intern Assistants Becca Kenna-Schenk and Sophia Hamilton; Rep. Dawn Morrell (D-25th District); and Cindy Zehnder, President of TVW, Washington’s public affairs network, joined the pages during classes on Wednesday. Each spoke about what led them to their current positions and shared insightful information with the pages. Pages were able to interact with these guests and get their questions answered.



New stillborn birth certificate created

Today, Representatives Nichole Locke and Hillary Tak introduced House bill 2424, which addresses the issue of stillborn babies being issued a new birth certificate known as the Certificate of Birth Resulting in Stillbirth. “The bill is a good one because it will help in the grieving process that the parents of stillborn children go through,” said Rep. Locke. “Nothing can die without being alive at one time or another,” she said. Previously, in the event of a stillborn birth, only death certificates were issued. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on January 18, 2007.

WASL standards lowered

Representative Jenn Hutchinson introduced House bill 3232, which addresses the issue of graduation requirements. “The bill is a good one because it will make it easier for all types of people to graduate from high school,” said Rep. Hutchinson. Only about 45% of all students that took the WASL passed all three parts. The WASL doesn’t address all types of people. The test doesn’t address the special needs of the mentally ill, special education students, or ELL children. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on January 18, 2006.

Pages celebrate at Thursday pizza party

Thursday afternoon, pages took a break from their regular duties and socialized with each other while eating pizza. This was an opportunity for House and Senate pages to mingle at the Page Appreciation Pizza Party.



Committees debate bills, vote

Simulated committee hearings were held on Thursday. Pages read their bills and “committee members,” governed by the rules of parliamentary procedure, debated the pros and cons of the proposals. A “DO PASS” or “DO NOT PASS” recommendation was then voted upon, allowing a bill to continue on in the legislative process. As in the real process, some bills died in committee.



Insane or perfectly fine?

Senator Leesha King recently introduced Senate bill 6208, which addresses the issue of insanity laws. “The bill is a good one because many people abuse the use of the insanity plea in felony cases and this will make sure they can’t cheat the system,” said Senator King. The bill states that any defendant pleading insanity cannot choose the physician or psychologist who will determine his/her mental state. It has the court choose the physicians so that they have an expert who knows what

they're doing. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on January 18, 2006.



Pennies to be pulverized

Today, Representative Samantha Mainard introduced House bill 2013, which addresses the issue of the uselessness of pennies. "The bill is a good one because it makes shopping more convenient," said Representative Mainard. The bill will ask stores to round up the prices of store items to the nearest five cents, making shopping easier. So keep your pennies at home unless you plan on going to a CoinStar machine. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on January 18, 2007.

Abortions become illegal

Representatives Dessie Larson and Melanie Stambaugh introduced House bill 3627, which addresses the issue of prohibiting abortions. "The bill is a good one because it will save 1.3 million lives. We have found that numerous couples are waiting to adopt children. The past worry of an abundance of unwanted children is inaccurate. Every child is a wanted child," said Rep. Stambaugh. The bill forbids all abortions, and any doctor found performing an abortion will be convicted of homicide, which is a felony. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on January 18, 2007.

New program stops bullying

Today, Senator Emily Fode introduced Senate bill 5432, which addresses the issue of school bullying. "The bill is a good one because it will make kids aware of how to recognize and avoid school harassment by other students," said Senator Fode. The law will establish a program in grades three through six taught by city police officers, similar to the drug awareness program DARE. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on January 18, 2007.

Jeopardy creates hit

On Friday pages tested their knowledge of the Legislative process in a spirited game of *Jeopardy*. Winning teams were awarded

certificates and brightly colored stickers that they wore proudly for the rest of the day.

Statewide abuse hotline established

Today, Representatives Laurel Prince and Michael Eaton introduced House bill 2654, which addresses the issue of creating a general abuse hotline. "The bill is a good one because it is convenient for those in need to remember just one, 24-hour hotline rather than multiple hotline numbers," said Rep. Prince. This bill will make a toll-free statewide abuse hotline that is open 24 hours. We feel this will be convenient and effective because it will be uniform and will assist those in many types of abusive situations. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on January 18, 2007.



Restrictions on water pollution

Today Representatives Khloe Frank and Denae Sallis introduced House Bill 3721, which addresses the issue of putting restrictions on water pollution. This bill states that we need to keep our environment, including all of the animals that live in and depend on it, clean and healthy. Oil spills, wastewater dumping, and sewage dumping in coastal water of Washington state and Puget Sound need to be stopped. Those who do not follow the new restrictions on water pollution, should they come into effect, will face consequences such as cleanup responsibilities, fines, and being prosecuted in a court of law. The bill was heard before the Page School Legislative Committee on January 18th, 2007.

Snowmobile Ban

Olympia - Representatives Johnson and Matthews introduced House bill 5600, which addresses the issue of snowmobiling in National Parks. "This is a good bill because it will help to keep our National Parks safer, quieter, and more pleasurable for tour-

ists seeking a peaceful vacation,” said Representative Johnson. The bill states that snowmobiles will no longer be permitted in National Parks. This should be done for safety purposes as well as a more desirable time for the tourists who wish to see wildlife and landscapes. This is also done for the preservation of the parks because of the enormous gas emissions that the snowmobiles put out into the atmosphere. This bill was heard before the Standing Legislative Page School Committee.

Students Have WASL Alternatives

Today, Senator Alayna McBride introduced Senate bill 4858, which addresses the issue of WASL graduation requirements. “The bill is a good one because it allows the students to have the option of taking the WASL test, or participating in community service,” said Senator Alayna McBride. Each student taking the WASL test in grade 10 can choose between the WASL test or community service as a graduation requirement. This bill provides young adults the ability to make a decision regarding their own education, without detracting from a moral responsibility. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on January 18, 2007.

Page School teachers

The Washington State Legislature’s 2007 Page School employs teachers Judi Orr and Laurel Johns, both of whom are certificated teachers with civics backgrounds.



Exercise balls in schools

Today, Representative Alexandra Montano and Representative Andrew Barta introduced House bill 2779, which addresses the issue of putting exercise balls in schools instead of chairs for health purposes. “The bill is a good one because exercise balls help to improve activeness in students by strengthening core muscles which gives them more energy. They also help improve posture and the attention in the classroom,” said Representative Montano. This bill gives tax breaks to schools who trade in

chairs for exercise balls. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on January 18, 2007.



No death penalty in Washington State

Today, Senator Abts-Olsen introduced Senate bill 6721, which addresses the issue of the death penalty. “The bill is a good one because it addresses the issue of the violation of the 8th amendment that states no cruel and unusual punishments shall be inflicted on any individual. In the state of Washington, the way of executing criminals is death by hanging. It will stop the executing of innocent people and the serious issue of cruel and unusual punishment,” said Senator Abts-Olsen. The bill will make it that the equivalent sentence of the death penalty shall be replaced with multiple life sentences without chance of parole. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on January 18th, 2007.

Take a whiff

Today, Senators Chris Comley, Roger Cobb, and Jennifer Kim introduced Senate bill 5871, which addresses the issue of introducing the smell of salmon as the state aroma. “The bill is a good one because many citizens of Washington push the thought of salmon preservation to the back of their minds, never actively pursuing a solution this imminent danger,” said Senator Cobb. With this unconventional approach, enlisting the promotion of salmon aroma in all state ceremonies and federal buildings as well as other arenas, it seems as if the salmon may have something good to look forward too. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on January 18th, 2007.

Pesticides prevent good health

Olympia – Senators Brooke Parsons, Elana Perez, and Ashley Mannello introduced Senate bill 5520, which addresses the issue of personal and environmental health. “This is a good bill because it helps give people a chance to live longer and happier lives in a safer and cleaner environment,” said Senator Parsons. The intent of this bill is to prevent cancers, mental and behavior

disorders and various major health problems. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has proven that pesticides are extremely harmful to people, animals, and places in which they co-exist. Eliminating pesticide use in foods promotes healthier people and a more productive environment. This bill was heard before the standing legislative Page School committee.

Unfair WASL criteria altered

Today, Senator Lauren Lefebvre introduced Senate bill 6142, which addresses the issue of the WASL grading criteria. "The bill is a good one because it will help students that are having a rough time with passing the WASL," said Senator Lefebvre. The bill will make the grading criteria different for students with English as their second language or who are challenged in their everyday work. The passing score will be lowered to a two instead of having to be a three or higher for these students. The law will reduce the number of these types of students failing the WASL and not getting their diploma. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on January 18, 2007.



Helmets vs. Longboarding

Today, Representative Chris Badley introduced Senate bill 5010, which addresses the issue of Wearing Helmets while riding a Longboard. "The bill is a good one because it gives the youth of Washington the experience of longboarding with more of an option on whether or not to wear helmets while riding," said Representative Chris Badley. This bill will propose the idea of giving the experienced longboarders the option of wearing a helmet or not based on the setting s/he is riding in. The bill will also be rewarding as the skaters feel more comfortable while riding because they will not have to worry about the helmets causing them problems while riding. This bill still encourages helmets in life threatening situations such as a downhill run (which consists of riding down a hill reaching highway speeds) and to wear a helmet if the rider does not feel comfortable on the board they are riding on. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on January 19th, 2007.



Say good-bye to a solitary commute

Senator Cami Kwan introduced Senate bill 5231, which addresses the issue of air pollution in Washington state. "The bill is a good one because it will help reduce the pollutants that harm the people of Washington state," said Senator Kwan. The bill will provide businesses that arrange car pooling or that pay for public transportation with tax cuts, which will result in less air pollution. By reducing air pollution there will be less people with heart and lung disease and less real estate damage, saving the government money that would otherwise be spent on health care and property upkeep. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on January 18, 2007.



Page School on the web

The Page School has its own web site. You can find us at: www1.leg.wa.gov/WorkingwithLeg/PageSchool/. This newsletter has been posted there.